





TRIBUTES

TO THE

MEMORY OF DR. DAVID MACLAGAN.

Died, at 129, George Street, on the 6th instant, in the 81st year of his age, DAVID MACLAGAN, M.D., F.R.S.E., Physician to the Forces, Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen for Scotland.

EDINBURGH, *June* 1865.

[*Privately Printed.*]

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*From the DAILY REVIEW, Edinburgh, Wednesday, June 7, 1865.*

It is our mournful duty to record the demise of this much esteemed gentleman and ornament of his profession, which took place at his house in George Street yesterday evening. For some years Dr. Maclagan had been almost incapacitated for active duty by the infirmities of advanced life, and latterly was completely laid aside ; but his friends and fellow-townsmen must feel it as a personal bereavement, when they learn that one so well known to all by his character as a large-hearted and reliable member of the community shall never again be seen amongst them.

We use no mere words of course when we say that very few men within our recollection, have stood so high in general estimation. He was a gentleman out and out, in the best and truest sense ; one towards whom his compeers instinctively turned for a sound and proper opinion and line of conduct in all matters where delicacy of feeling and sentiment seemed to be involved. He was altogether above those jealousies which spring from selfishness. He invariably put the best interpretation on the behaviour of others, and certainly deserved, more than most men, to have it said of him, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

In early life he passed with great credit and distinction through the fiery ordeal of the Peninsular war ; and we doubt not that the soldierly

qualities then developed, added a certain style and finish to his character, which not only made it more generally attractive, but added weight to his influence as a citizen. During the more active period of his life, Dr. Maclagan, while largely confided in as an honourable practitioner and trustworthy friend of his patients, took a prominent place in everything that concerned the general welfare. He was enabled to do this, not only by the respect accorded to him, but by a clearness of conception and a natural eloquence, expressed in calm accuracy of language, which always secured for him an attentive hearing. At all periods of his life full of respect for sacred things, he evidently became more and more so as years rolled on, till, like the setting sun, a warm and softening radiance gathered around him, leaving no doubt whither he was going.

Dr. Maclagan graduated at the University of Edinburgh in 1805. For a number of years he held the office of Surgeon-Major in the 9th Brigade of the Portuguese army under Lord Hill; and had his full share of the fatigues of the Peninsular war. On leaving the army, he returned to Edinburgh, and united himself with what was then called the Liberal medical party, connected with which were the late Dr. Thomson, the late Professor Turner, and others. From 1816, he was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and in 1848 he took his fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians. He was one of the first to become a member of both Colleges, and was, perhaps, the only man who has yet filled both their presidential chairs. Four or five years ago, he was seen at the graduation of physicians, in the University of Edinburgh, sitting beside his son—Dr. Douglas Maclagan, the present distinguished Professor of Medical Jurisprudence—and present with the view of seeing his grandson, Dr. R. Craig Maclagan, who is also in practice in Edinburgh, receiving his degree of M.D. Besides being connected with the public bodies already mentioned,

Dr. Maclagan was from 1807 a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England ; he was a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, of the Antiquarian Society, of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh ; he held the office of Physician to the Forces, and Surgeon to the Queen in Scotland ; and was from the time of his leaving the army consulting surgeon to the New Town Dispensary. At one time he was a member of the Town Council of Edinburgh, in virtue of his office as President of the College of Surgeons. He was the author of several professional papers in the medical journals of the day. Dr. Maclagan, who had completed his eightieth year, was married to a sister of the late Dr. Whiteside, of Ayr, and has left a widow and seven sons.

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*From the SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh, Thursday, June 8, 1865.*

This good old man—who never made an enemy and never lost a friend—the valued family doctor and friend—the public-hearted citizen—the genial companion of our best men for fifty years—died on Tuesday evening—gathered into the garner of the Great Husbandman like a shock of corn fully ripe. His well-known person, his hearty smile, and kindly greeting, have been missed from our streets for more than a year, and for some weeks he has been gently dying—*felix opportunitate mortis*, with his unfailing life-companion and her seven sous, an unbroken family, around his bed.

Dr. Maclagan was born in Edinburgh in February 1785, and was consequently in his eighty-first year. After receiving his classical education at the High School, he entered as a student of medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and, according to the custom of the time,

became an apprentice of Mr. Andrew Wood, then one of the leading Surgeons of this city. He took his Surgeon's diploma in 1804, and his Doctor's degree in 1805, and, having resolved to join the Medical service of the army, he went to London, studied at St. George's Hospital, and became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1807.

His first service was with the 91st Regiment, with which corps he was for some time quartered in Ayr, a town with which he acquired a permanent connexion by his marriage with the amiable lady who survives him, who was a daughter of Dr. Whiteside, then the leading practitioner there. With the 91st he went, in 1809, to Walcheren, and had the mortification of seeing the splendid battalion to which he belonged reduced by death and sickness in a few weeks from a thousand men to something less than one effective company. The illness of other medical officers threw additional work on him, but his natural strength of constitution and activity of disposition bore him safely through all the horrors of that ill-fated expedition ; and though he afterwards felt the effects of it a little, he never was laid aside from duty.

On his return to Britain he remained in the 91st till 1811, at which time he was under orders for Canada, when he received the offer of a transfer to the Portuguese Contingent, which he promptly accepted, and accordingly in November 1811 he sailed for Lisbon to join the army under Lord Wellington. He was appointed Staff-surgeon to the 9th Portuguese Brigade, forming part of the Fourth Division, which he joined in the investing ground before Badajoz. He continued to serve with the Fourth Division till September 1814 ; and as his brigade was constantly in the field, and engaged with the enemy, he had his full share of the arduous duties of a military medical officer. He was present at the storming of Badajoz, and at the battles of Salamanca,



Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, and Nive, and therefore, in due time, received the Peninsular medal, with six clasps. His professional skill and ceaseless activity in the discharge of duty secured for him the most flattering expressions from all those under whom he served, including among others a special notice in an order of the day by Marshal Beresford, who praised him "for the promptitude and zeal displayed by him in the care of all the wounded, in having them accommodated and attended to, and their cases treated on the spot." The result of these distinguished services was his promotion to be Physician to the Forces, which rank he held when the Portuguese army went home from the campaign in France, and his return to England *via* Lisbon instead of a more direct route was owing to his detention by Sir Benjamin D'Urban, Quartermaster-General of the Portuguese army, who stated that he valued Dr Maelagan's services so highly "as to be obliged to make a point of retaining him to superintend the hospital arrangements of the Portuguese army." He was on duty in Britain in 1815, and, consequently, was not at Waterloo, and in 1816, having gone on half-pay, he settled in Edinburgh, and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

From this period to his death, Dr. Maelagan was identified with his native city. His professional zeal led him to join his friend Dr. John Thomson, in the New Town Dispensary, then recently established ; he long and zealously discharged the duties of an ordinary medical officer in that admirable institution, and he remained connected with it in the honorary capacity of consulting surgeon to his death. He was at the same time laying the foundation of an excellent private practice, both by his professional skill and by his agreeable manners, gentlemanly deportment, and undeviating kindness to his patients. He was elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1826, and as the College at that time had not got the charter, which subsequently

dissociated it from the Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh, he was *ex officio* a member of the Town-Council, and sat both as Deacon of the Surgeons and as Convener of the Trades. In 1848 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, which learned body testified its respect for his position and character by electing him President in 1856. He thus had the high and, we believe, unique honour of having been president of both the great medical incorporations of Edinburgh. He was a Fellow of the Royal and of the Antiquarian Society, of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, and of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, over which also he had presided.

Dr. Maclagan was not the worse Doctor that he was some things else. He was a keen politician, and ever ready to stand by the Liberal standard in days when to do this cost a man something. In the struggles for Burgh and Parliamentary Reform, Catholic Emancipation, Abolition of the Slave-trade, and indeed in all great Liberal questions, Dr. Maclagan was always in the van, and was an effective and ready speaker at our public meetings, when they were worth the name.

Hence, it was his privilege to live through a long life on intimate terms with those men whose names we should never weary to repeat—James Abercromby, the Horners, Jeffrey, Cockburn, Murray, Ivory, Fullerton, John Allen of Holland House, Daniel Ellis, Charles Maclaren, the Gibson-Craigs, sire and sons; and indeed, as we have already said, the best men of his time. His professional familiars included among others Dr. John Thomson and his sons, Professor Turner, and the gifted and lamented Dr. John Gordon, “dead ere his time.”

He had a special relish for and sense of excellence in the Fine Arts, and was intimate with all our best Scottish artists: Wilkie—whose Academy drawing of “The Laocoon” he possessed—Sir William Allan,

Andrew Wilson, Geddes, Thomson of Duddingston, Joseph the sculptor, etc. ; and he possessed, along with many other gems of art, the best specimens we have ever seen of the genius of that most original artist, Alexander Schetky—a man who, if he had made painting the occupation instead of the pastime of his life, would have achieved a name in landscape second only to Turner. Any one who has studied his pictures in Dr. Maclagan's drawing-room will not say this praise is too high. Mr. Schetky was an army surgeon like his friend, and some of his noblest drawings represent with wonderful power the wild, fierce glories of the Spanish *sierras*.

Dr. Maclagan, as we have said, leaves seven sons, the eldest our excellent Professor of Medical Jurisprudence. They can have nothing but affectionate pride in looking back on their father's long and honoured life, and gratitude to him for much that they now are.

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*Notice written for an Edinburgh Daily Paper ; unpublished, having been anticipated by the above.*

It is with great regret—a regret which in this city is both general and profound—that we have recorded the death of the venerable and excellent Dr. David Maclagan. Few Edinburgh professional men have ever been so highly and universally esteemed by his own profession, of which, in every sense, he was truly an ornament ; and few Edinburgh citizens have ever been held in such cordial and respectful regard by all parties and classes in the community. “*Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.*” Most wept, most honoured by those who had the longest and closest intimacy with him, and the best opportunity of knowing and appreciating the rare combination of estimable and loveable qualities by which his life and character were distinguished.

Dr. MacLagan was very well known, and was highly and deservedly respected in private and in public life. The annals of the Peninsular campaign, where he served with great distinction; the records of the Medical Profession, and the grateful memories of many families to whom his skilful and considerate kindness has been a blessing; the history and progress of most of the best of our beneficent institutions—these attest the energy and ability, the benevolence and usefulness of his life. It could scarcely be, that, with his large heart and active mind, he should abstain from taking part in the political struggles of his time. He was not one whom party feeling narrowed or hardened or embittered, but one who, unselfishly seeking his country's good, contended openly and honourably for measures which he felt to be just, and for principles which he believed to be sound. He was an earnest, steadfast, and consistent Whig, the intimate friend of that distinguished band of Scottish Liberals, who, in the days of darkness and trial, contended for "the good old cause;" and to that cause he himself did valuable service, speaking, when occasion required, with great spirit, discretion, and acceptance, and with a uniform kindness and courtesy which commended him even to opponents, disarming hostility, securing respect, and smoothing the asperities of party warfare.

He was a member of the Established Church of Scotland, a man of sincere and unassuming piety, tolerant and friendly towards Christians of all denominations, and, throughout his long life, he was the unswerving friend of civil and religious liberty. No example more seasonable or more instructive could in these days be presented to the sect-divided society in which we live, than the example of this good man, who was a peace-lover and a peace-maker, and who, while firm and steadfast in his own convictions, conceded to others all the liberty which for himself he claimed.

*From Sermon by the Rev. R. H. STEVENSON, in St. George's Church, Edinburgh,  
Sunday, June 11, 1865.*

Brethren, I cannot close this discourse without reminding you that, since we last met in this house of prayer, one of the oldest, most venerable, and most distinguished of our members has been removed from among us by death, leaving behind him to mourn their bereavement a widow and an unbroken family of sons, and a very large number of truly attached friends. Dr. MacLagan, to whom, as you know, I allude, can no more return to his well-known place here ; and we are impressed with a feeling of deep sadness when we think that with his bland countenance and devout deportment he can no more grace our solemn meetings or unite in our devotions. At the same time, our chastening by this bereavement is alleviated by many circumstances, which cannot be reflected on without gratitude to the great Disposer of all events. Our deceased friend has "come to his grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season ;" he enjoyed a long career of worldly prosperity, distinguished at once by the active discharge of the duties of an honourable and laborious profession, and by the maintenance of an unsullied reputation. Endowed to an unusual degree with the capacity of enjoying the blessings of this life, he was enabled at the same time to cherish a sincere and uninterrupted reverence for all that is sacred in religion ; and it was evident to those who had opportunities of judging, that he had a steady and an ever-increasing experience of that highest and best of all happiness, the peace which springs from believing in Jesus. He was a true gentleman as well as a sincere Christian, a skilful physician and a public-spirited citizen, a devoted husband, a faithful but kind father, a sincere and genial friend. Few men, indeed, possessed in a larger degree those qualities which inspire the respect and affection of good men : hence

the great esteem and love with which he was regarded both by his kindred and his friends, and the sacred feelings with which they now cherish his memory. As for myself, I consider it to be an honour and an advantage to have been the friend and the minister of such a man, and I have a pleasure in this day holding up his character to the admiration and imitation of those of us who still remain in this world to watch and pray and labour.

We sympathize with those on whom this bereavement has fallen more immediately and more heavily ; more especially with our friend's widow, his affectionate partner for considerably upwards of half a century, and his not less affectionate and untiring attendant during his last protracted illness. Doubtless her and their experience then was, as it still is, that no chastening is joyous but grievous ; at the same time that grace, which so triumphantly carried the sufferer without one murmur through all his trials, was fully shared in by those who ministered to him in his affliction. As his last end was peace, so to those who waited, and ministered, and sympathizingly suffered with him, their work was a "labour of love," and they never grew weary of it. For so much goodness and grace to this family in their affliction, we desire this day to give God thanks. Let us at the same time strive to profit by the good example which has been left to us as a legacy, and let us not fail to pray that those whose spirits have been bowed down by the weight of this bereavement may be strengthened by the Lord's right hand, and abundantly comforted with the consolations of the gospel.



*From an Address by the Rev. J. CHRISTISON, after the administration of the Communion, in the Parish Church of Biggar, Lanarkshire, on Sunday, June 11, 1865.*

(Dr. MacLagan was an Elder of the Congregation at Biggar, and, so long as his health permitted, went to officiate there at Communion seasons.)

In urging you to cherish the feelings to which the service of this day gives birth, let me call on you to bear in mind the obvious probability that we shall never all mingle together our sacramental vows in this world again. Since we did so last, how many in the full vigour of man's youth and prime have passed to their account ! How many who had long maintained a gentle combat with time, and whom death drew towards him step by step, have, since last communion, sunk into the grave ! One instance of this I cannot help referring to—the death of an office-bearer of this Church, whose memory, I am sure, all here present, as well as in a wide circle around us, will never cease to love and revere. His distant residence, and the duties of an anxious profession, did not prevent him from often officiating here at this solemn season. Who can forget his ever welcome and kindly appearance amongst us on such occasions,—his vigilant attitude, his prompt attention to every item of duty, his unrivalled sense of propriety, his unfailing and anticipating courtesy ? All these, chastened by a holy reverence, formed a picture at once edifying and delightful. We shall look on it, alas ! no more ; but we shall rejoice in the honoured name which Dr. MacLagan has left behind him. It was not that he was distinguished for commanding qualities fitted irresistibly to arrest the attention, and compel, as it were, the plaudits of mankind. He possessed what was better far, a variety of powers whose strength lay in their admirable balance, and a combination of every day virtues so happily attuned as to secure for him general affection and esteem, wherever he

went. "When the ear heard him, it blessed him ; and when the eye saw him, it gave witness to him."

His position in life led him to mingle much in the world, and he knew it well. Men of the world enjoyed his society, and he theirs. Still he was *in* the world and not *of* it. A deep, though unobtrusive piety enabled him to overcome it. He keenly enjoyed the more elevated pleasures of life, but lived not the less under the power of the world to come. Gratitude to God, indeed, as expressed by the cheerful use of his gifts, and yet the subordination of every taste to the exigencies of "the one thing needful," formed one of the most distinguishing features of his character. He sought to adjust the comparative claims of time and eternity, and seldom was that fearful balance more accurately struck. Hence he verified, in his own happy experience, the benign declaration of Scripture, "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, as well as of that which is to come."

Let us too, my friends, live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, that we may rise to "the inheritance of the promises," as we believe them to be now inherited by him whose loss we deplore, but whose memory, if we are wise, will long be regarded by us as a guiding star.

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*From the LONDON AND EDINBURGH WEEKLY REVIEW, Saturday,  
June 17, 1865.*

Those of our readers who have any connexion with Edinburgh will join us in mourning the removal by death of this excellent Christian gentleman.

At the great age of eighty-one years—after a life of eventful activity and of much usefulness—lamented by an unusually wide and attached circle of friends—he has fallen asleep, leaving a name and memory



fragrant with goodness. An only child left fatherless in infancy, he early gave himself to careful study, and having resolved to enter the Medical service of the army, he went to St. George's Hospital, London, and became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1807, having previously taken a surgeon's diploma and doctor's degree at Edinburgh. Having joined the 91st Regiment, he went, in 1809, to Walcheren, and passed through the sufferings of that disastrous expedition, with comparatively little damage to his health. Returning to this country, he was on the point of going to Canada with his regiment, when an offer of an appointment in the Portuguese Contingent was made to, and accepted by him. He accordingly sailed for Lisbon in 1811, joined Lord Wellington's army, and was appointed Staff-surgeon to the 9th Portuguese Brigade, which he joined before Badajoz. As a medical officer he had, during that most eventful war, a full share of work and danger. He was present at the siege of Badajoz, and the battles of Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, and Nive, receiving, in consequence, the Peninsular medal, with six clasps. To the value of his services, repeated and strong testimony was borne by those in command during this long campaign—services rendered alike from a sense of duty, and from that womanly gentleness of heart which characterized his whole professional career, and made him as much the tender and loving friend, as the able medical adviser of his patients. General Stubbs, who commanded the 9th Portuguese Brigade, wrote to him, on the 16th August 1813, thanking him for "active exertions on all occasions to provide for the wounded and sick, as also for professional skill, which among us all has been carried to the highest pitch of admiration." He was mentioned by Marshal Beresford in the Order of the Day, December 28, 1813, and warmly praised for the "promptitude and zeal displayed in his care of the wounded" after the assault of the French works on the 11th November of that year.

His promotion to be Physician to the Forces followed these services, but he was detained in Portugal on the ground of eminent qualifications for the discharge of urgent duties there, and before leaving for England received a most flattering letter from General D'Urban, the Quarter-Master-General, which he concludes thus:—"The hospital arrangements of the army so imperiously required your presence and your services, that I could not dispense with them, and was, in consequence, obliged to make a point of your remaining. That you did so has been of the most important utility, and I request you to accept my thanks for this last exertion of that well-known professional ability and active zeal by which this service has so long benefited."

In the year 1816, Dr. Maelagan went on half-pay, and, having become a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, settled in Edinburgh, his native city, with which, during the last fifty years, he has been thoroughly identified. His professional and private worth soon attracted a large practice; and to the interests of his patients as well as of his calling he devoted himself with characteristic energy.

Apart from purely professional eminence, Dr. Maelagan was looked up to by his medical friends as presenting in a remarkable degree characteristics which should distinguish such a calling—high principle, real courtesy, genial fellowship, and willing self-sacrifice. His surviving medical brethren have, with hearty and unanimous feeling, hastened to give their appreciation of these qualities in him. "In our social gatherings," writes one, "he always shed a bright light, and, at the same time, a pure light. You do not need me to tell you how much he was beloved. The cause of this was his recognised worth, and the combination in him of the various qualities of the physician, the soldier, the gentleman, and the Christian." Another writes—"It will be one of the treasured memories of my life to have known a man so truly

worthy of the name of *gentleman*, so charitable in his judgments, so faithful in his friendships, so utterly free from offence and self-seeking in every form." And, not to multiply these quotations, another says—"He was a gentleman out and out, in the best and truest sense ; one towards whom his compeers instinctively turned for a sound and proper opinion and line of conduct in all matters where delicacy of feeling and sentiment seemed to be involved. He was altogether above those jealousies which spring from selfishness. He invariably put the best interpretation on the behaviour of others, and certainly deserved more than most men to have it said of him, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'"

Another, a man of note, not of his professional brethren, has written of him as "one whose memory I shall ever prize as that of one of the best and purest Christians I have ever known ; and whose attractive countenance is one of the lights of the future to beckon us all away to a higher and better world. May we be all the better for habitually recalling him, and may we as gently, peacefully, and hopefully pass away to that glorious Presence where we believe he is now for ever blessed."

Such testimony, from such men, is full of weight and of value. It is all the more so, that the man whom they so praise, was himself, to a large extent, unconscious of the influence he wielded, for it proceeded not so much from what he *did*, as from what he *was*.

His extensive practice did not prevent him taking an early part in the civic, political, and philanthropic movements of his day. In all questions of reform, both borough and parliamentary, in the Catholic Emancipation struggle, and above all, in the battle of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, he took a prominent and active position. It must not be forgotten that in these times it required no ordinary moral courage to take up such public questions ; and the fact that doing so involved some sacrifice, bound up in very close and intimate bonds those who

laboured together in promoting them. He survived most of those with whom he had been associated in this work ; for Andrew Thomson and Chalmers, Abercrombie, Jeffrey, Moncreiff, Cockburn, Murray, Rutherford, and Sir James Gibson-Craig, have all passed away before him. The lists of directors of benevolent societies in Edinburgh, abundantly show the extent to which he gave time and influence, even in his busiest days, to such objects ; and the great educational institutions and numerous private schools of the city seemed to expect, as a matter of course, his presence at their examinations and exhibitions.

In the midst of all this work, he was interesting himself in every movement which had for its object the promotion of cultivated taste in the fine arts, and in music of the classical schools ; his theory being that, next to religion—which he recognised as the only true regenerator of our race—the attractions which these present to young and ardent minds, should be used as handmaids and helpers.

His intimacy with Wilkie, Chantrey, Sir William Allan, Andrew Geddes, and Thomson of Duddingston, and his own excellent taste in matters of art, as evidenced by his small but choice collection of pictures, gave an additional impetus to his efforts in this direction. None who knew him can ever forget the delight with which he used to drink in the music of Mozart, Beethoven, and, above all, of Haydn, at the Saturday afternoon concerts, which at one time were so successful, attracting many professional men by the double value of their exclusive devotion to classical music, and their rigidly observed rule not to exceed two hours in duration.

While thus living a public life of many labours and engagements, he was nowhere so happy and useful as in the midst of his own family. His sons—for he had no daughters—were, even from childhood, made his companions, and taught to take an interest in the many movements with which he himself was occupied. There grew up a feeling of in-

tense affection towards him within his own house, not, indeed, to be wondered at, when the thorough unselfishness and buoyant cheerfulness of the man are borne in mind. It was always a bright day when, relieved for a time from professional engagements, he entered with wonted energy and glee into the amusements of the country, and amidst the shouts of those who came to spend occasional days with him, joined the cricket party or the footraces of the boys, and was as keen in the game or the friendly strife as the youngest amongst them.

It is not without a definite purpose that we have written this detailed notice, which some may at first sight be disposed to think unduly prolonged. It seems to us useful and right to record an instance—of which, while we rejoice to think there are many others, we wish there were more—in which are reconciled elements of character often found separately, but not so often in combination. It is possible to hold a front rank in one's profession (for Dr. Maclagan was President of the College of Surgeons, and more recently of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh—the only man we believe that has ever held both offices), and at the same time to be a laborious worker in the fields of public usefulness. It is possible to hold clear and strongly pronounced opinions, and yet not to sever friendships because we cannot stretch our judgments upon the same Procrustes' bed; for it was a subject sometimes of mirth and quiet banter, that while a keen Liberal in politics, his most close and constant friends were<sup>\*</sup> as keen Tories, and that while a Churchman and Presbyterian,—never keen in a matter like this, but firm and decided,—his warmest friends and many of his own family were as firm and decided Free Churchmen and Episcopalians.\* And, better still, it is possible to be involved in

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\* Dr. Maclagan had been brought up as an Episcopalian, to which Church his own parents belonged; but he had in early life attached himself to the Presbyterian Church, of which he remained to the last a member and office-bearer.



public duties and exciting interests, and yet not to neglect family obligations, and the "weightier matters" of the great Hereafter.

We cannot forbear mentioning one incident in connexion with public questions which greatly pained him, but in which he was clear and decided in his convictions and in the course he was led to adopt. He took an early and warm interest in the cause of Ragged Schools in Edinburgh. An unhappy controversy arose before the movement had long been launched, which threatened to destroy it. The children for whom such schools are intended, are, as we all know, outcasts, or "street Arabs" as they have been graphically described, and the parents of these children—in almost every case drunken and worthless—show by the utter neglect of their offspring how little they regard their temporal or eternal interests. Nevertheless, an influential section of the community contended that if the parents of these children happened to be nominally Roman Catholics, the children should be educated in their hereditary religion. Others felt this to be the very Quixotism of liberality, and to be founded neither upon reason nor duty. That such outcast children should not only be fed, but taught the Bible, and in every way brought up as we would bring up our own children, seemed to them to be the clear and consistent course. The controversy became a warm one, and a large proportion of those political friends with whom Dr. MacLagan used to act, took the former view. He gave them—in the exercise of that truly Christian toleration which he ever exercised—full credit for sincere convictions in this matter; but he claimed the same credit for himself, and unhesitatingly joined Dr. Guthrie's Original Ragged Schools, of which he continued a most active member of the committee as long as his health permitted him to give effective aid in the work.

Some years ago, it became apparent to those having the best opportunities of observation, and who were most deeply interested in him,

that the bow which had been so long upon the stretch was no longer abiding in strength, and that the physical and mental vigour of the old man was beginning to fail. It was no small trial for a man of such activity of frame, and such *perferendum ingenium*, to be laid aside from wonted service ; and, often very unfit for it, he continued to bear his share of public duty. One of the latest public matters in which he took part was the laborious and difficult task of administering the Indian Mutiny Relief Fund. Deeply thankful that with three sons in the East at that time, no hair of their heads had suffered, he threw himself with an almost unnatural energy into this matter, and faithfully attended long business meetings when those who were with him felt he should have been resting and at home.

In the now popular and prosperous cause of Medical Missions he took an early and lively interest, although unable to bear an active part in the work of the committees who directed them ; and while his interest in political and public questions was not abated, his hearty sympathy with all religious efforts steadily deepened and increased.

Into the history of his inner life—the true life after all—it is not the province of a public journal largely to enter, but our notice would be incomplete without some such reference. Sufficient is it to say, that as “the outward man perished, the inward man was renewed day by day.” In his library the books at his right hand were more and more of a religious and experimental character, while the best of books was ever increasingly the “man of his counsel.” A most graceful and affecting thread of humility ran through his whole life, and especially through the later years of it. Often, in the confidence of loving intercourse, he spoke of his personal unworthiness,—of the loving-kindness of God to him and to his,—and of the Saviour of sinners as his own and only refuge.

During an alarming illness which he had in 1858, this spirit was

evinced in the most attractive way. The following is an extract from a letter written at the time by one of his sons to an absent brother, and which is more valuable than any mere expression of opinion after the stroke of death has actually fallen :—“ In these lucid intervals it is most touching to be near him. They are given frequently to prayer—simple, quiet, earnest. Last night when sitting by him, I followed a prayer quite connected and well arranged, ending always, ‘ God be merciful to me a sinner.’ To a lifelong friend who called to see him he said, ‘ There is only one hope for you or me— in a merciful Saviour. I think, I can say I am willing to depart if it be his will.’ His friend replied, ‘ Yes, but we hope you may be spared to us yet.’ ‘ True,’ he replied, ‘ I do not despair of life, nor do I despise the blessing of remaining a few years with my family.’ Nothing could be more touching or quiet. It was so childlike and trustful.”

The pins of the tabernacle were slowly and gently taken down ; loving hands—especially of her who during fifty-five years of a most bright and happy married life had been his helper and sympathising counsellor in all his works—waited upon him with intensely devoted hearts ; and having had his seven sons, an unbroken family circle, around his bed but a few days ere his departure, he may be said to have died as he delighted to live, in the very midst of his family. In the early part of the week he was visibly feebler. To the inquiry of one as to his comfort in the first hours of the morning, he replied, “ Very well—the Lord is my Shepherd ;”—and to another, who said to him, “ We have many mercies,” he answered with difficult articulation, “ The precious blood of Christ.” “ Having this hope in Him,” he fell asleep on the evening of the 6th of June.

It has not been our intention or desire, to depict a perfect character, or to attribute such to him. He, of all men, would have been the first to reject any such testimony. But we seek to honour that grace which



made him what he was, and to exhibit his life as one worthy of imitation, as it illustrates the combination of public services gladly rendered, and private duties never neglected.

The funeral of this justly lamented physician and citizen took place on Tuesday, from his house in George Street, where a very large concourse of friends assembled to join in the last tribute of respect to one who will be greatly and increasingly missed in his profession and in the community generally. Religious services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Stevenson, the Rev. Dr. Muir, Principal Candlish, and the Rev. Dr. Cairns of Berwick ; after which the long train of mourners followed the remains to their resting place, in the family burying-ground, at the Dean Cemetery. The pall-bearers were the seven sons of the deceased, and three grandsons. The grave has seldom closed over a more widely esteemed and loveable man.

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*From the Address by the President, SIR DAVID BREWSTER, K.H., at the first Meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, for the Session 1865-66, in referring to the loss which the Society had sustained by the death of*  
 DR. MACLAGAN.

Dr. David MacLagan was born in Edinburgh in February 1785. After receiving his classical education at the High School, he entered the University as a Student of Medicine, and was apprenticed to Mr. Andrew Wood, one of the principal surgeons in the city. In 1804 he took his surgeon's diploma, and in 1803 his degree of M.D., and he prepared himself for the medical service of the army by studying at St. George's Hospital, and becoming, in 1807, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in England. Attached to the 91st Regiment, he

accompanied it to Walcheren, where he had the good fortune to escape the epidemic which decimated the flower of the British army. In 1811, after his return to England, he was under orders for Canada, when he received the appointment of staff-surgeon to the 9th Portuguese Brigade, a part of the 4th Division which, under the Duke of Wellington, was investing the fortress of Badajoz. He accordingly sailed for Lisbon in November 1811, and was present at the storming of Badajoz, and at the subsequent battles of Salamanea, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, the Nivelle, and the Nive, receiving for these services the Peninsular medal, with six clasps. The professional skill which he exhibited on these occasions, and his active zeal for the recovery of the wounded, were frequently acknowledged by his military superiors, and led to his appointment as physician to the forces. In 1816 Dr. MacLagan quitted the army on half-pay ; and having been admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, he settled in his native city, where his professional skill soon obtained for him an extensive practice. In 1826 he was elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and of the Royal College of Physicians in 1856. He presided also over the Medical and Chirurgical Societies, and took an active and intelligent part in all our literary, scientific, and philanthropic institutions. In the cause of medical missions he took an early and zealous part ; and the friends of every religious movement could always count upon his active and generous support. To his professional accomplishments Dr. MacLagan added a taste for the fine arts, and he was intimately acquainted with the eminent artists who in his time adorned our metropolis. Amid the distractions of his professional life, which lasted more than half a century, he found leisure to study the great social questions of the day, and was an ardent promoter of parliamentary and burgh reform, free-trade, Catholic emancipation, the education of the people, and the abolition of slavery. But while he thus took a zealous part in every

question, and in every institution of secular interest, he had ever in his view the higher destinies of man. He was an exemplary member of the Presbyterian Church, and a true believer in those great truths which the wisdom of this world is unable to comprehend. Without any marked disease, but weakened gradually with age, this truly Christian physician and philanthropist expired on the 6th June 1865, in the midst of his family, lamented by a widow and seven sons, some of whom have obtained distinction in the service of their country.

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*From the Address to the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, by the retiring President, DR. DOUGLAS MACLAGAN, 20th December 1865.*

It remains for me now to call to your remembrance those members whom the Society has lost by death during the period of my presidency. These are Dr. Newbigging, Professor Miller, Dr. David MacLagan, and Dr. John Gillespie.

. . . . .

Of Dr. MacLagan, I should have to speak as of one whose earlier professional lot was cast in more stirring times than those of the two friends whom I have already noticed. I should have to mention his services as an army medical officer in the pestilential swamps of Walcheren and the bloody fields of the Peninsula, and his subsequent career in civil life, where he gained the esteem, not only of his patients but of his professional brethren, as was evinced by his having the rare honour of being President both of the College of Surgeons and of the College of Physicians of his native city. I should have to speak of his warm interest in every scheme devised to do good to his countrymen, and of the earnestness with which he entered on the field of political and municipal action, without, however, ever alienating a friend or say-

ing an ungenerous word of an opponent. But whilst my words would necessarily refer to the wider area of public service, professional work, and duties of citizenship, my thoughts would concentrate themselves within the narrower precincts of domestic life, where we, who were his own, could best know, and knowing, could appreciate, the purity of his character, the simple genuineness of his piety, the unvarying sweetness of his temper, and the warmth of his heart. I am persuaded that you would, with sympathizing kindness, follow me into this inner circle were I to open it up to you ; but this must not be. This is not the time or place to offer a full oblation on the altar of filial regard. I may, however, perhaps be pardoned if, speaking as I now do to a professional audience of him for the first time since his death, I should say, as I do in all sincerity, that whatever measure of success I have met with in life, I owe it, under God, to his precept, which was good, and to his example, which was better.

At hoc nunc

*Illi laus debetur, et a me gratia major*

*Nil me pœniteat sanum patris hujus.*

Dr. Maclagan was born in February 1785, and died on 6th June 1865. He also was one of my predecessors in this Chair, having been President of the Society from 1840 to 1842.